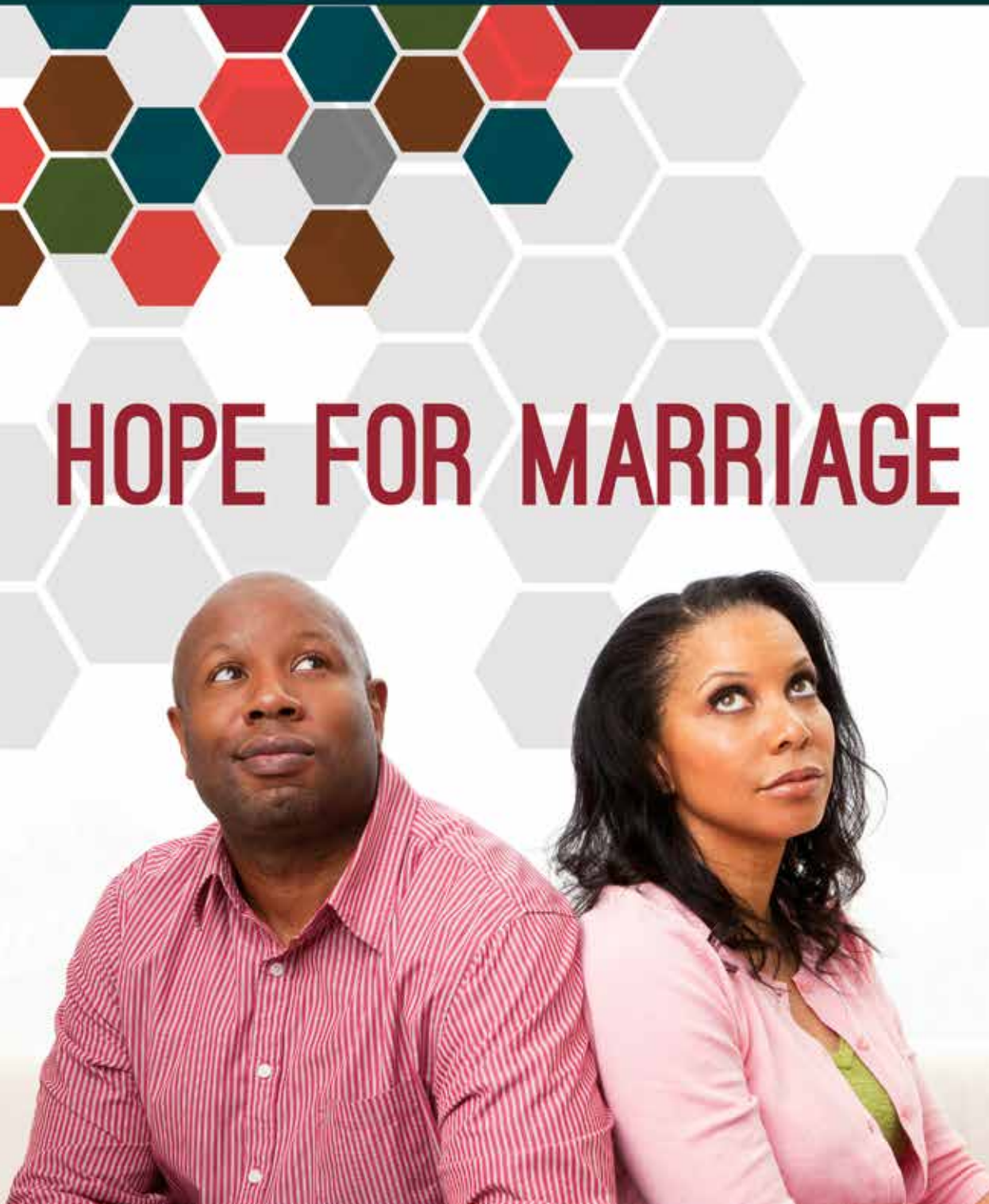


spring/summer 2014

# Connections

LINKING RHEMA GRADUATES AROUND THE WORLD



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# The Bottom Line

## Lifelong Relationship Wisdom

DOUG JONES | RMAI/RAA National Director

I think we will all agree that we humans are an interesting species. For some reason, connecting the dots and understanding how things interact and influence our whole lives seems to be a challenging concept to us. But to be sure, each stage of life, each season of life, provides wisdom that enables us to excel in the next stage. This is especially true if we embrace the wisdom God provides through His Word. There is no stage in life where God's wisdom is not to be the primary well we draw from.

Wisdom from the previous stage of life is to be carried into the next stage and not to be viewed as unnecessary. Each stage, therefore, increases our relational wisdom and prepares us for the greatest stage of life and the greatest relationship—marriage.

Every stage of life has one common factor: relationship. For us, our primary relational wisdom source for marriage is Christ and His relationship with the Church. But there are three other arenas we can glean from. They will empower us with common-sense relational tools that we can carry over into the marriage relationship. These three areas are relationships with our bodies, our friends, and our employers. We are to carry over into our marriage union the relationship disciplines necessary to grow in each of these areas. Knowing this will give couples hope. It will give struggling couples a place to begin as they endeavor to restore harmony to their homes.

**Our bodies.** Ephesians 5:28: *“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.”* How we love, consider, and treat our bodies provides relational wisdom. We are in a relationship with our body for years before we enter into marriage. What we have learned will help us navigate the relational waters of a marriage.

**Our friendships.** Growing up, and before we stepped into the workplace, we all had friends. And the same qualities that are necessary to nurture and maintain a friendship must be present within a healthy marriage union. Among these qualities are consideration, forgiveness, overlooking faults, loyalty, and kindness.

**Our employment.** First Peter 3:1: *“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands.”* The word *likewise* connects chapter 3 with the content of chapter 2. In First Peter 2:18–25, Peter gives instructions to employees. This leads me to believe that our relationship with our employer or department head will provide us with relational wisdom that will serve us well as we navigate the marriage union. Most of us are employees before we are married.

From all of this it is clear: the health of our marriages depends on the relational skills we have learned throughout our lives. In the following pages you will find much food for thought. May it provide useful wisdom to nurture our marriages and assist the generation coming up behind us.

A fellow laborer,

Douglas E. Jones

RMAI/RAA National Director



**RMAI/RAA Staff** Rev. Douglas E. Jones, RMAI/RAA National Director; Rev. Joe Duinick, Missions Director/Staff Minister; Rev. Karen Jensen Salisbury, *Connections* Editor/Staff Minister; Fabjana Guri, RAA/Missions Secretary; Ann Graves, RMAI Secretary/Assistant to National Director; Laura McKown, Receptionist/Office Coordinator **Graphic Artists** Kristen Cook, Jeanne Hoover, Lisa Moore, Amber Warner, Rose Wenning **Editorial Staff** Kimberly Hennenfent, Karen Jensen Salisbury, Yvette Lanier, Bob Murphy, Cheryl Piper, Janet Wagner **Photographer** Phil Anglin **Project Managers** Cindy Barber, Carol Breeden, Christi Finley, Cristina Mincer, Kris Taylor

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*These testimonies come from Rhema alumni who struggled early in their marriages. But through perseverance and God's Word, they have enjoyed long and successful lives together. And they have ministered together for years.*

## Taming the Tongue



### Sam Smucker ('77)

*Sam and his wife, Sherlyn, pioneered The Worship Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 36 years ago and have pastored there ever since. [worshipcenter.org](http://worshipcenter.org)*

*Here is Sam's account of their experience.*

The first four years of our marriage were very rough. I was not yet a Christian, and I was verbally abusive.

When I gave my life to Jesus, things began to change. I used faith in God to tame my tongue. When there has been verbal abuse in a relationship, many times it leaves scars, and it takes the one who was verbally abused time to trust again.

Through the years I have intentionally spoken words of affirmation and encouragement to my wife. This began to change the atmosphere in our home. It was not automatic. It took time for me to change my ways of interacting with Sherlyn. I come from an Amish background where sometimes the wives are not treated with value and respect the way they should be. That shaped some of my thinking, but I am not making excuses for my behavior.

I began to make myself accountable to my pastor, who lives here in Lancaster. Sherlyn and I have now been married 45 years, and for the last 30 years our marriage has been very good. We are best friends and enjoy each other very much. I am not saying I am perfect. There is always room for improvement and growth.

### Marriage and Ministry

Because we are ministers, our marriage is a model that people see. Therefore we need to be examples that are worthy



of following. In a way, a pastor's marriage sets the bar for marriages in the congregation.

When the pastor and his wife have a healthy marriage, it affects all the marriages in the church and brings security into the congregation. In essence, it gives people a positive vision for their marriage. If the pastor's marriage is dysfunctional or unhealthy, the congregation picks that up and it creates insecurity in the church.

### Help for Couples

At The Worship Center we have an ongoing marriage ministry called Re|engage which meets every week. It is set up in a way that a couple can start coming at any given week. It is designed for couples that have good, solid marriages, bad marriages headed for divorce, or marriages that are just coasting.

We also periodically speak about marriages in our weekend church services. Sometimes we do a series on "Healthy Families," and marriage of course is included.

Our goal is to have an environment in our church in which couples are comfortable to ask for help and in which we value healthy marriages.

## Keep Believing



**Melinda (Osburn '84, '85) Koehler and her husband, Dan ('86, '87),** are missionaries in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Africa. They met on the mission field in 1987 and have been missionaries ever since. [slmint.org](http://slmint.org)  
Here is Melinda's account of their lives together.

**D**an and I got married knowing full well that it was the will of God for us. There was no doubt in my mind that this man was the one for me. But just a couple years into our marriage, we were really struggling.

It got so bad at one point that I thought I would have to leave him. As I began to cry out to God, the first thing He did was correct me. He said, "Take the word *divorce* out of your vocabulary! It's not an option for you!" I thought, "Does that mean I'm stuck in this misery for the rest of my life?"

I honestly didn't realize that I'd been throwing the threat of divorce in Dan's face all the time. After God dealt with me, I obeyed and prayed diligently for our relationship, but I saw no apparent change for six months.

### Turnaround Begins

Then, slowly, things began to change. First God sent an American pastor to Africa to speak into our lives. Then we were given books by Gary Smalley—*If Only He Knew* and *For Better or for Best*—that radically changed our marriage.

Meanwhile, God kept dealing with me. As we read the books, God told me to shut my mouth! I was nagging Dan. I was trying to change him myself and not letting God do the work. Here I was praying for *him* to change, but God began to work on *me*!

Of course, in the meantime God was working on Dan as well. He learned to apologize to me. Before that, he'd never once in four years of marriage said he was sorry. But the Gary Smalley book taught him to take me in his arms and say he was sorry when he hurt me.

I'd kept a long list of grievances from all the hurts he had caused me, but when he apologized I forgot every hurt.

I learned to stop trying to be the Holy Spirit and change him but rather to pray and let God deal with him. I also learned to communicate my needs to him rather than expect him to know how to be married.

### Blessing and Honoring Each Other

From that point on we began to have sweetness in our marriage. Willard Harley's book *His Needs, Her Needs* helped us talk about what were our most important needs. We tried to give to each other and meet the other's need.

We began to commit to doing what would help or bless the other person rather than just think of what we needed. The best thing is, both of us are committed to being doers of the Word and not hearers only.



Another thing that I needed to change was really, truly honoring Dan. That is something that is lost to our culture. I had to learn what honor looked like in marriage and how to build up Dan with my mouth. Dan began to study Ed Cole's books on maximized manhood and has now become the "Ed Cole of Africa." He tells men, "Ask your *wife* if you are really saved. She can tell you where you need to change."

### Did you know?

You can access all past issues of *Connections* at [rhema.org/alumni/connections](http://rhema.org/alumni/connections).



## From Selfishness to Love

**Duane and Mary Hanson (both '94, '95)**

*pastor Established Heart Community Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota. [EstablishedHeart.org](http://EstablishedHeart.org)*

*Here is Duane's account of their experiences.*

**M**y wife and I are celebrating 44 years of marriage this year, and we've had our share of ups and downs. It's been God's grace, mercy, and love that have kept us together.

We were high school sweethearts and were married after she graduated. Soon I was 20 years old, married with a new baby on the way, and working full time. We had all the symptoms of a marriage in trouble, just as Ed Cole summarized in his book *Communication, Sex, and Money*. In a few years we went through a painful separation. We managed to work through some of our problems, but only in our own human strength.

Shortly after that, we surrendered our lives to the Lord. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to renew our minds, and within a year we were separated again. This time we almost divorced. Thankfully, the seriousness of our situation made me determined to find the answers in God's Word instead of giving up on our relationship.

### Going to the Word

Between the Bible and my *In Him* mini-book, I began to search diligently for anything I could use that might bring the fear of God into my wife's life, praying that *she* would repent and change!

It was during this time that I saw Second Timothy 2:22–26 (see box).

Verse 25 caught my attention. I was hoping that God could give my wife "repentance" (or "a change of heart,") which would lead her to "acknowledging the truth" about her choices in life. But I saw in verse 22 that the focus was not on her; it was on *me!*

I was responsible to do certain things before I could expect to see the response I was hoping for. I had to "flee" something, which was my selfish individualism, and I had to "follow" something, which was God's righteousness, faith, love and peace.

I realized I had to make some changes before I could expect God to do His part or expect my wife to have a change of heart.



### Making Some Changes

I began to see that I wasn't walking in love with my wife. My attitude was selfish, and so was my prayer life. I had been so convinced that *she* was the one who needed to repent, but the Lord brought the truth to bear in *my* life.

Meanwhile, my wife was crying out to the Lord, knowing that she, too, needed to make some changes. It was during one of those times that He spoke a life-changing truth to her heart: *Your husband isn't the enemy!* When we became a *partnership*, determined to resist the real enemy of our relationship (the devil), we were on the road to recovery.

We identified the real enemy, and we came to understand that **the opposite of love was not hate but selfishness.**

Maintaining a strong marriage takes effort; it must be worked at continuously. We've found that many of the little issues that used to be a point of contention no longer matter. We have learned to "prefer the other person" and to "submit one to another" because of God's love in us.

Our marriage has become a living testimony that God's Word is able to restore even the most difficult situations.

<sup>22</sup>Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. <sup>24</sup>And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup>in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup>and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

—2 Timothy 2:22–26

## Learning Your Mate's Personality



**Samantha (Watson '81, '82) Roach**  
and her husband, **Paul ('85, '86),**  
pastor Faith Family Church in El Reno, Oklahoma.  
**FaithFamilyChurchInc.com**

*Here is Samantha's account of their experience.*

**P**aul and I had a storybook romance that only God could put together. Our first date was the night he proposed because God had spoken to him audibly and told him I was to be his wife.

God had also spoken very clearly to me through several visions and words of knowledge regarding who my husband was. So when we got married, there was absolutely no question that God put us together. Of course, we then expected to live "happily ever after."

Such was not the case. After some time went by, Paul thought he'd married Attila the Hun and I thought I had married Caspar Milquetoast!

Our first two years of marriage were hectic. I was on staff at Rhema and he was a student there. Then we moved to San Diego to start a church, and things went from strained to very difficult. We didn't ever fight or raise our voices, but we knew there were problems and we didn't know how to solve them.

We knew that divorce was out of the question, but we didn't know what to do. Paul often pondered the question, "God, are You punishing me?" and I often thought, "OK, I won't get a divorce, but I'll just quit the ministry and disappear."

### A Total Change

One day I received a flyer addressed to pastors' wives. It asked, "Do you want your spouse to understand you better?" I thought, "Duh, yeah!" So I sent for the free booklet.

I received it and showed it to Paul and we immediately ordered the video series *Teammates* by Bruce Cook and

Howard Hendricks. (See Resources on page 19.) We took our church through it six times in two years.

That series began a wonderful journey of discovery and growth that totally changed our marriage. We went from being two people on opposite ends of the pole to a 30-year marriage that has grown closer and closer as each year passes.

Bruce Cook and Howard Hendricks identify and describe the four major personalities and their strengths and weaknesses. You learn how to capitalize on your strengths and change or minimize weak areas. And most important, you learn how to communicate with your spouse on a level that he or she will hear and receive.

### Permission to Be Ourselves

Understanding your mate's temperament is paramount to learning how to communicate in a way your spouse understands.

Too often we communicate with others according to our personal temperament and don't realize the other person is not receiving what we think we are communicating. When it was all said and done, we gave each other permission to be ourselves and became each other's greatest cheerleader.

We now teach this to people in our congregation and in marriage conferences we do in other churches. The testimonies we receive about changed lives and changed marriages are wonderful!



## Five Communication Principles for Couples

Good communication is the key to a happy marriage. Here are five things for both husbands and wives to keep in mind:

1. When you're communicating your need for conversation, be sure to do it in a clear, respectful, and honest way. Remember, your spouse doesn't know what you're thinking.
2. Anytime your spouse makes an effort to talk with you, be appreciative. Reinforce this behavior by telling your spouse how much it means to you.
3. Commit to the 10-Minute Plan of reading and praying together (see box). Even if it's hard to start with, don't give up!
4. Look for opportunities to turn routine activities like shopping, visiting yard sales, or preparing a meal together into conversation times.
5. Always keep your sense of humor when unexpected challenges arise during conversations. Be patient and persistent.

### A 10-Minute Plan to Better Communication

Here's a 10-minute plan for increasing effective communication with your spouse. Do this three times a week:

- ✓ Spend **four minutes** reading a marriage book together.
- ✓ Then take an additional **four minutes** to discuss what you've read in a positive way. (No criticism allowed.)
- ✓ Finish with a **two-minute** prayer.

It won't be easy, but if you'll stick with it, it could be a turning point in your marriage. It could take your relationship from good to great. By setting aside this time together and making each other a priority, you're creating an environment for talking and sharing that can lead to a desire for more.

$$4 + 4 + 2 = 10$$

## How to Handle PROBLEM AREAS With Your Spouse

Ultimately, you can't change your spouse—the only person you can change is *you*. Of course, that does *not* mean you have to put up with inappropriate behavior in a marriage. You don't have to stay in an abusive situation, and physical aggression is never to be tolerated.

But with other problem areas, there are right and wrong ways to address them. Here are some guidelines:

- 1 **Tackle the problem honestly.** Don't beat around the bush. Instead, say something like, "Honey, it bothers me when you burp at the table. It teaches the kids a bad habit, and it's rude to guests."
- 2 **Explain the benefit of the change.** For example, "Meals will be more pleasant for all of us, and you'll be a good example to our guests."
- 3 **Don't demand change.** Instead, request it. Your spouse will respond more favorably.
- 4 **Don't attack your mate.** When you attack your spouse, you crush his or her spirit. Confront the *problem*; don't belittle the *person*.
- 5 **Discuss ways to bring about the desired change.** Change is hard for all of us. Let your spouse know that you're on his or her side.
- 6 **Encourage your spouse's growth.** Acknowledge positive progress, and offer praise and expressions of appreciation for your mate's efforts.
- 7 **Recognize that change takes time.** Be patient, and let your spouse know that you're in this together for the long haul.
- 8 **Focus on your spouse's good habits, not just the irritating ones.** Look for the good in your mate. Remember Paul's exhortation in Philippians 4:8: "Whatever is honorable, pure, just, lovely . . . **think on these things.**"
- 9 **Pray for your spouse.** God is ultimately the One Who makes change possible. So pray for your mate's efforts. And since some behaviors may never change, ask God to give you grace to accept the differences between you.
- 10 **Seek to change the habit, not the person.** If you're trying to alter your spouse's personality or temperament, you'll be fighting a losing battle that will end in frustration for both of you.



*“Marriage—not creating woman—is the final act of creation.”*

—Dr. Paul Weiss



## ➔ *How to Fight Fair* ⬅

**N**o two people in the world are going to agree on everything all the time. Ever! So married couples need to know how to *negotiate* and *compromise* when they have differences. They need to know how to disagree without being disagreeable.

Healthy marriages make room for constructive criticism and ways to express opinions and intense feelings. They learn how to deal with conflict respectfully, working together to find a workable solution. Resolving conflict together can *strengthen* a marriage instead of harming it. Here are some tips for healthy conflict resolution:

- 1 **Watch your language.** There is no place in a healthy relationship for accusations, put-downs, insults, threats, name-calling, or cursing. Always endeavor to be respectful, even when you disagree.
- 2 **No yelling.** A loud voice usually escalates a disagreement. Watch your tone in general, because what is yelling to your spouse may not be yelling to you. Maybe in your family it’s normal to raise your voice when you’re upset. Take note of how your volume and tone affect your spouse, and adjust them accordingly.
- 3 **Really listen.** Allow each other to express feelings. Give each other undivided attention, without interrupting, and really listen, without planning rebuttal. Acknowledge the other’s feelings, and don’t tell your mate, “You shouldn’t feel that way.” Take turns speaking, so that you both have a chance to say what you need to say.
- 4 **Don’t play the blame game.** Trying to pin fault on one spouse or the other usually makes him or her defensive, and it won’t help solve the problem at hand. Your relationship is too important to undermine it with blame and judgment. Keep your goodwill for each other intact.
- 5 **No threats.** The use of physical force, or the threat of it, is never acceptable. Neither is the threat of divorce. Threatening to leave your relationship undermines any attempt to resolve an issue and quickly destroys your spouse’s trust.
- 6 **Talk about you, not your spouse.** Limit yourself to describing how you feel or what you want and need, not what you think your spouse feels, wants, or believes. Telling your spouse what he or she thinks, believes, or wants is controlling and presumptuous.
- 7 **One thing at a time.** Stay in the present. Don’t bring up past issues. We can’t change the past—we can only change today. So focus on what can be done today to resolve the issue at hand and go forward from there.
- 8 **Keep talking until you get there.** It may take more than one or two discussions, but keep talking things out until a compromise is reached. If one spouse works through an issue in his or her own mind and then informs the other, “Here’s what we’re going to do,” there can be trouble. Bring your mate along through the process. Work through things by talking about them together.



## “What Does My Spouse Need?”

Happy couples are those who seek to meet each other's needs every day. We have to know what those needs are in order to meet them. Use these keys to open the door to your spouse's heart:

### *Wives, here are your husband's top four needs:*

- 1. Honor.** Our society today is doing everything it can to dishonor men, especially as husbands and heads of families. Try reading these verses daily in the *Amplified Bible* to help renew your mind about honoring your husband. You'll be glad you did! **Ephesians 5:33 (second part); First Peter 3:1–2**
- 2. Sex.** God created men with this very basic need. It is *good* and *godly* between a husband and wife. Wise is the woman who understands this. She doesn't leave her husband vulnerable to today's barrage of sexual images. She seeks to meet his need in the marriage relationship.
- 3. Recreation.** Men like to have fun with their wives. They don't need a mother. (They already have one.) They need a lover, a friend, a companion. Find leisure-time activities you both enjoy doing, and make time to do them together regularly. The couple that plays together stays together.
- 4. Domestic Support.** A man's home is his castle. Wise wives make home a haven for their husbands—a place where he feels loved, supported, peaceful, and happy to return to every day.



### *Husbands, here are your wife's top four needs:*

- 1. Security.** This need is twofold. First, your wife needs to know that she is secure in your love—that there is no other woman in the world for you. (It's why you must never compare her to other women, and why you need to say “I love you” as often as possible. It's why pornography and infidelity are so devastating to a marriage relationship.) Second, your wife needs to know she'll be taken care of—she'll have a home, the bills will be paid, she can trust you to provide, and her future is secure.
- 2. Affection.** Not sex! Nonsexual affection is holding hands, hugging, smiling across the room, and letting your wife know you're thinking of her. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* describes *affection* as “tender attachment” or “fondness.”
- 3. Open Communication.** Your wife can feel very vulnerable if she's not aware of what's going on in your life. Be willing to *share* every area of your life with your wife. Learn to get better at open communication. In a woman's mind, one of the worst forms of abuse is silence from her husband.
- 4. Leadership.** Your wife actually *wants* you to be the spiritual head of your family. Try reading these verses in the *Amplified Bible* daily to renew your mind to the biblical role God has called you to: **Ephesians 5:25–33 (first part); First Peter 3:7.**

## IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING THROUGH MARRIAGE PROBLEMS



It's hard to watch someone you care about go through hard times. But this is when they need you! Try some of these practical, down-to-earth ways to help undergird and strengthen a couple going through counseling:

- ✿ **Offer to babysit.** Counseling can be costly. For some couples, the additional cost of hiring a babysitter may be quite a challenge. Volunteer babysitting can really help ease the financial and emotional stress on couples.
- ✿ **Take dinner.** Especially on counseling appointment nights, having someone bring dinner over can really ease a couple's transition from work to the appointment.
- ✿ **Invite them to play.** Sometimes when couples are struggling, their friends don't know what to do, so unfortunately they leave them alone. Instead, invite them for a relaxing evening so they don't have to be alone together. This can really refresh both of them, and it can remind them that there *will* be life after counseling. Fun ideas: a game night, a barbecue, a hike, or a movie. In times like these, caring, supportive friends can make all the difference.
- ✿ **Listen.** You don't have to give advice or solve problems—leave that to the professionals. But a listening ear can help your friends through the process. These conversations help each partner sort through their experience in a safe and confidential environment, away from their spouse. Be careful not to choose sides.
- ✿ **Encourage.** Remind your friends that this troubled season will pass. Let them know you admire them and are praying for them. Send cards and notes, call them often, and spend time with them when you can. You can't overestimate the power of caring.



The opposite of love is not hate but indifference.  
 A person will not share their dreams and feelings in a critical or judgmental atmosphere. Without the sharing of feelings, hopes and dreams, a couple will not experience intimacy.

—*The Seven Levels of Intimacy*  
 by Matthew Kelly

### Three Ways You Can Bring Health to Your Marriage

There are many elements to a happy, healthy marriage. These are just a few to get you started in the right direction. The key is, don't look to your *spouse* to change. Instead, focus on what *you* can do, right now.

- 1) **Yield.** Don't insist on your own way. Listen to your spouse's complaints and ask yourself if they are valid, and if you can make changes. Be humble and mature. Don't get defensive.
- 2) **Be spiritually healthy.** You can't change your spouse or your mate's walk with God. But you can be diligent in your own spiritual growth and maintain a vibrant relationship with God. Keep your devotional life strong. Endeavor to seek God and keep the switch of faith turned on.
- 3) **Care.** No matter what's going on in your life or your circumstances, always treat your spouse with respect and loving-kindness, just as the Lord treats you. It's not based on deserving but on a decision—a choice to walk in love.

## Seven Ways to Get a Great Marriage

*Husbands and wives, begin to implement these things in your marriage and get ready for spectacular results in your relationship.*

### 1. Make your spouse feel special.

Could it be possible that you've started taking your relationship for granted? If you haven't done something *today* to let your spouse know how special he or she is to you, it's time to get on the stick. You don't have to spend a lot of money—you just have to give it some thought. Ideas: an out-of-the-blue "I love you" phone call, a greeting card, a lunch date, flowers, an unexpected hug. Husband, open the car door for your wife. Wife, serve your husband his favorite drink or snack while he's watching TV, or set the table for dinner with candles.



### 2. Take care of yourself.

Are you looking your best for your spouse? Does your partner take a second look or say "Wow!" when he or she sees you? Think about how you dress. Get regular exercise. Don't be a slob. Do your best to look *good* for your mate!

### 3. Learn your spouse's love language.

Read Gary Chapman's book *The 5 Love Languages* (see Resources on p. 19). Then become fluent in your spouse's language and speak it every day. This takes work but it's so worth it.

### 4. Get creative.

Start acting like you did when you first met! Plan events, dates, evenings at home, vacations, or stolen moments. They don't have to cost a lot. If you believe your spouse is worth the trouble, then he or she will be. If you stop trying, so will your spouse.

### 5. Practice kindness.

Be kind to your spouse. Learn to make thoughtfulness and consideration your second nature. Husband, be a gentleman. (Stand up when she leaves the table, open the car door, walk on the street side of the walkway, help her on with her jacket, run to the car for her umbrella.) Treat each other with courtesy, respect, manners, faithfulness, generosity, and charm.

### 6. Say "I love you"—a lot.

Husbands, this one is really for you. Guys tend to think, "I told her I loved her at the wedding. If I change my mind, I'll let her know." That's just not going to do it. She needs to hear it every day—multiple times. Tell her she's beautiful. You'll believe it more every time you say it, and so will she. She'll even become more beautiful the more you say it.

### 7. Spend quality time together.

No matter how you slice it, there are only 168 hours in a week—never more, never less. The amount of time you invest in your relationship says a lot about how much you value your spouse. Your marriage is worth your time and attention.





## Doug Jones (75)

is the National Director of Rhema Ministerial Association International (RMAI) and Rhema Alumni Association (RAA). He has been an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College for 29 years.

### Q. What are qualities that strengthen a marriage?

**A.** So many things come to mind, but to be certain, paying **attention** to your spouse is vital. Simply put, the primary issue that generates distance between a husband and wife is lack of attentiveness.

In Jesus' parable of the sower, He spoke of a 30-, 60-, and 100-fold return. But what determines the different levels is revealed in Mark 4:24 (Amplified), *"And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear."*

In essence, the degree of attention or importance that we place on what we hear (or in this case, our marriage) determines the quantity and quality of the fruit that is produced.

If we have a 30-level marriage but desire a 60-level marriage, we need to step-up the degree of attention we give our relationship to our spouse. (And, not wait for our spouse to make the first move. . . !)

After deciding to ramp up our marriage, we must be willing to establish a pattern of being more kind and more thoughtful. We must show more respect, more gentleness, apologize more quickly, forgive . . . well, you get the idea. Doing these things will help any marriage grow.

But implementing these actions won't produce instant results. To be sure moving from one level to the next will not be possible without doing just a little more on a regular and continual basis.

### Q. What are the qualities that weaken a marriage?

**A.** Once again, so many things come to mind. But one thing that seems to float to the top is **loving as the world loves**.

There are two types of love in the world today: worldly love and godly love. If we lack an understanding of either type of love, we could find ourselves loving as the world loves and not even knowing it. Loving as the world loves will not produce the same fruit that loving with a godly love will.

Jesus explained how the world loves in Luke 6:32 (NKJV): *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them."*

This verse defines the way the world loves as a reciprocating love. It is a reactive love. The world says that if you love me, I will love you. If you do good to me, I will do good to you.

The quickest way to step down from a 60- to a 30-level marriage is to love as the world loves. Weakened marriages are the result of spouses who are reactive. They only apologize when their spouse utters "I am sorry" first. They only share their heart when their spouse opens up to them. They are only kind when their spouse first exhibits kindness to them. They only offer compliments to their spouse when it benefits them personally.

A marriage that continually loves as the world loves will mirror the world more than the Creator of this world.

### 1 PETER 3:1-8 (NKJV)

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

### Side Thought

Loving as God loved us. . . .

Jesus said in Luke 6:35, *"Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."*

Loving as God loved us is a proactive love. It is a love that does not expect something in return (but of course rejoices when there is). This type of love is unconditional.



**MARRIAGE 101:***How Our Differences Can Be Our Strengths***Joe McGee ('80, '81)**

*is an author and conference speaker who shares his laugh-and-learn approach to family relationships across the nation every year. Married for over 40 years and the father of six grown children, he's invested the past 30 years into training people in relationships. [JoeMcGeeMinistries.com](http://JoeMcGeeMinistries.com)*

**M**arriage was God's idea. His Word has much to say about two people getting together (see box).

Everything God made hums with power, but we have to know how to handle it. Water can quench our thirst, or it can drown us. Fire can keep us warm or burn us to death. Marriage can be the closest thing to Heaven on earth, or it can be the closest thing to hell on earth, all based on one thing—what we do with it.

In marriage, we have to dwell with each other according to knowledge, as the Word of God says in First Peter 3:7.

**Understanding Our Differences**

Men and women are different—physically, mentally, and emotionally:

1. Men are performance oriented; women are relationship oriented.
2. Women hear five tones; men hear only three. That's why you will mostly hear a woman, and not a man, say, "Don't you use that tone with me!"
3. Men compete; women cooperate.
4. For every man who can sing in tune, there are eight women who can do that.
5. A woman's skin is 10 times more sensitive to touch than a man's.
6. Women use three times more words in a day than men.



*Jesus didn't find a church; He built one (Matt. 16:18). It's no different with marriage. We don't find a great marriage; we build one.*



We don't see the same, hear the same, or think the same. We don't feel the same or problem-solve the same.

That is a good thing, because according to an old saying, "If two people are just alike, one of you isn't needed." And that goes back to the "two are better than one" scripture.

Marriage isn't about "I'm right; you're wrong. I'm smart; you're stupid." It's about "What do you see that I don't?" In marriage, we're supposed to use our strengths to cover each other's weaknesses—not to attack each other.

**Your Spouse Is a Gift**

The second greatest thing God ever made outside of salvation was marriage. God gave you the gift of your spouse so that the two of you could combine your strengths and do something powerful for Him together.

When we get God in the middle of our marriage, we are creating a three-fold cord, which isn't easily broken. And with His Word as our guide, we can create the kind of marriage that makes others ask us about the hope that is in us!

- ☀ It's not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
- ☀ Find a wife and you find a good thing (Proverbs 18:22).
- ☀ Male and female are to be united into one (Matthew 19:4–6).
- ☀ Two are better than one (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

## BUILDING A GREAT MARRIAGE: 3 Tips for Keeping the Connection

It's a well-known fact that anything left on its own will decay. That means whatever we're not working to strengthen is getting weaker. Building a great marriage takes purposeful, daily effort using tools from God's Word. Here are three tips for building and keeping your marriage strong.

### 1 Do Things Together

Find something you enjoy doing together—like going for a walk, riding a bike, reading a book, or talking about something. Spending time together is a big part of building your relationship. When you get married, you promise to stay *together*, not stay the *same*. **The person you married all those years ago changes every year, just as you do. So it's important to date your spouse.**

We have a relationship with God and we are saved, but God wants our fellowship too. He wants us to talk to Him and listen to Him. The relationship with your spouse is no different. That talking and listening is what creates intimacy—especially over the years as you change. Marriage has got to be more than just sleeping in the same bed, paying bills, and sharing a mortgage payment.

Start visiting with your spouse and getting to know him or her all over again!

Building a great marriage takes purposeful, daily effort using tools from God's Word.

### 2 Dream Together

Dreaming is something you used to do as a kid. Your best buddies and you would dream when you were in elementary school. You did it before you got married—you dreamed about what your life would be like, where you would live, what you would be doing, and how many kids you would have.

Do you want to maintain a healthy marriage? Dream together. Many day-to-day conversations in marriage end up being about maintenance—bills, crooked teeth, or broken dryer doors.

According to Proverbs 13:12, hope deferred makes the heart sick. You need to dream about your future together. Try a five-year plan, a five-month plan, or a five-week plan. The idea is to talk about where you want to be headed. Get detailed or keep it simple; the point is to write something down. We are to “write the vision and make it plain” so that we can run together (Hab. 2:2).

### 3 Pray Together

According to Matthew 18:19, when you get together as a couple and get in agreement over your future, powerful things start to happen.

Plus, it's really hard to lose it when you're praying together. That doesn't mean things will be perfect. But when you're committed to seeking God together and using His Word as the guide for your life, you're on the right path.

Sometimes you'll say, “Hey, come here a second. Let's pray about this real quick,” and that will take 30 seconds. Other times it will be more planned. But never overlook the quick moments to get into agreement on something. Nothing is too small or too big to believe for together. When spouses pray together, an incredible bonding takes place. A soul tie happens that causes the intimacy in your relationship to grow.

In addition to praying *with* your spouse, you need to pray *for* them. As I said, it's difficult to complain about your spouse when you are taking him or her to God in prayer regularly.

**A marriage is a problem-solving team. When you get into agreement in the Word of God, I promise—you'll see great things happen!**

### Take the 'Happy' Challenge

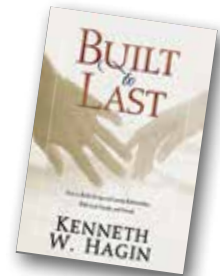
Ask yourself, “What one thing can I do to make my spouse happy today?” It doesn't have to be a big thing or something that you have to buy. Just ask yourself, “Is there something I can do today to show my spouse that I care, to make their load easier, or to make them smile?” You are not looking for a reward. You are doing this just because you love them—just because they are special to you.



## God's Word on Marriage

Rev. Kenneth W. Hagin

*This article has been adapted from chapter 5 of Rev. Hagin's book Built to Last.*



### EPHESIANS 5:21–33 (NIV 1984)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

In the Word of God, we find instructions given for the marriage relationship. If people would just follow these simple instructions, we wouldn't have the problems we see in marriages today.

In Ephesians chapter 5 we see the proper marriage relationship—one in which both husband and wife are submitted to God and each other.

It's true that the wife is to submit, or give respect, to her own husband as the Church is submitted to Christ. It is also true that the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. How much does Christ love the Church? Christ loved the Church so much that He gave His life for it.

In the marriage relationship, there must be a head or leader. The Word of God has designated the man, the husband, to be the leader of the marriage relationship and the family.

The reason wives sometimes take over and become the spiritual head of the house is that the husband will not do his duty according to the Word of God. I'm not saying that the husband is to dominate as a dictator in his household. **Submission isn't forced—it's voluntary.** If you demand submission from an individual, the best you'll get is tolerance.

Christ never demanded submission from the Church. The Church has always been allowed to make a voluntary choice whether to submit to Jesus. Likewise, husbands aren't to force their wives into submission, but rather to lead them in such a way that submission becomes a choice they gladly make.

If husbands and wives simply followed the instructions in Ephesians 5:21–33, the husband would not ask his wife to do things that are unrealistic and irrational. And the wife wouldn't try to take the place of her husband as leader in the home.

If a husband gives himself for his wife and loves her the way Christ loves the Church, she's going to *want* to follow him!





# Resources

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## Books / Websites

*Love and Respect* | [LoveAndRespect.com](http://LoveAndRespect.com) | Dr. Emerson Eggerichs  
*Marriage on the Rock* | [MarriageToday.com](http://MarriageToday.com) | Jimmy Evans  
*The Five Love Languages* | [FiveLoveLanguages.com](http://FiveLoveLanguages.com) | Gary Chapman  
*His Needs, Her Needs* | [MarriageBuilders.com](http://MarriageBuilders.com) | Willard F. Harley, Jr.  
*For Better or for Best* | [smalley.cc](http://smalley.cc) | Gary Smalley  
*The Love Dare* | [TheLoveDareBook.com](http://TheLoveDareBook.com) | Stephen & Alex Kendrick  
*Best Friends Best Lovers* | [BobAndAudrey.com](http://BobAndAudrey.com) | Bob & Audrey Meisner  
*Teammates: How to Keep Building a Better Marriage* | Bruce Cook & Howard Hendricks  
*The Two Sides of Love* | Gary Smalley & John Trent  
[JoeMcGeeMinistries.com](http://JoeMcGeeMinistries.com) | Joe McGee ('80, '81)



## To Counsel

### ✔ Prepare/Enrich series / [Prepare-Enrich.com](http://Prepare-Enrich.com)

For premarital counseling as well as marriage counseling. This is what the Rhema Bible Church pastoral staff uses in counseling couples. Helps build strong marriages and healthy relationships through a variety of programs. These include a set of inventories for premarital and married couples, along with programs and books for individuals, couples, and families. Prepare-Enrich has a training section online for clergy members and professional counselors.

### ✔ So You're Getting Married / [HNormanWright.com](http://HNormanWright.com)

The author of *The Complete Guide to Crisis & Trauma Counseling*. He has many other great resources on marriage.

### ✔ Marriage Savers Inc. / [MarriageSavers.org](http://MarriageSavers.org)

Mike McManus' ministry, which equips communities, principally through local congregations, to help men and women prepare for lifelong marriages, strengthen existing marriages, and restore troubled marriages.

### ✔ Emerge Ministries / [Emerge.org](http://Emerge.org)

Marriage and family counseling . . . a place to send ministers or lay people for marriage help.

## Divorce

[DivorceInfo.com](http://DivorceInfo.com)

[DivorceCare.com](http://DivorceCare.com)

[Family.org](http://Family.org) (Focus on the Family—James Dobson) In the Search box, type in Divorce.

[Getting Back Together](http://GettingBackTogether.com)

*Hope for the Separated* by Gary Chapman

## Blended Families

[Blended-Families.com](http://Blended-Families.com)

[HelpGuide.org/mental/blended\\_families\\_stepfamilies.htm](http://HelpGuide.org/mental/blended_families_stepfamilies.htm)

[AllAboutLifeChallenges.org/blended-families.htm](http://AllAboutLifeChallenges.org/blended-families.htm)

[Family.org](http://Family.org) (Focus on the Family) In the Search box, type in Blended Families.

Doug Jones' new  
favorite website for  
husbands and  
fathers:  
[AllProDad.com](http://AllProDad.com)



*Do you want to break  
the devil's power over your life?*

## DISCOVER YOUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST!

Understanding and operating in the authority Jesus delegated to all Christians is one of the most important truths we can grasp as believers. However, many of us have yet to realize that we have authority over the devil. And others among us have not fully used that authority. Kenneth E. Hagin's *The Believer's Authority Curriculum* is a wonderful tool through which you can learn how to thwart the enemy's attacks every single time.

This curriculum includes:

- *The Believer's Authority Study Guide* (1 book)
- *The Believer's Authority* (4 CDs)
- *The Believer's Authority: Legacy Edition* (1 book)
- *Reigning in Life as a King Series* (4 CDs)



### **The Believer's Authority Curriculum**

(multimedia course, Kenneth E. Hagin)

\$59.95

\$74.90 Canada

Plus Shipping and Handling

#### **Order**

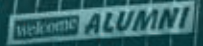
**rhema.org/store**

1-888-28-FAITH (283-2484)

**Product code:** BM546



# RBTC UPDATE



## INTRODUCING "TRENDSETTERS"

[rbtc.org/trendsetters](http://rbtc.org/trendsetters)

"Trendsetters" is a new recruiting tool—a Web page that's been created to get information to those interested in Bible school. Rhema graduates are Trendsetters in their world, and we are eager to train more!



### How does it work?

- ☀️ Potential students visit the site, where they can do two things:
  1. Review information about the school
  2. Request a packet of information about the school
- ☀️ Once they request the packet, they immediately receive an email thanking them and inviting them to our next Rhema College Weekend.
- ☀️ A packet is sent.
- ☀️ The potential student then receives a phone call from our Recruiting Department thanking them for requesting the packet and answering any questions they might have.
- ☀️ Follow-up is then done monthly, helping them walk through the admissions process.

**Who should visit the Web page?** Anyone who answers yes to any of the following questions:

- Do you want to train for ministry?
- Do you want to study God's Word in depth?
- Do you want to be better equipped to help your church?

### How can I help?

- ☀️ Tell people about the Trendsetters Web page.
- ☀️ Forward a link to the page to your friends through email and social media.
- ☀️ Add a link to the page on your ministry website.
- ☀️ Add a link to the page on your email signature line.
- ☀️ Encourage others to do the same.

## SPRING ENROLLMENT!

RBTC students now have the option to enroll in September/Fall or in January/Spring. Here are the spring enrollee course options:

- ➔ Spring enrollees receive core Bible courses during their first *and* second years of study. (See alternative second-year option below.)
- ➔ If they stay on their original course track, these students will finish their course work in January two years after they begin. (Spring enrollee graduates will attend the graduation ceremony in May of the year they graduate.)
- ➔ Spring enrollees who want to take a second-year specialty program will complete their first year in January and then take a short break from school (mid-January–August). They will begin their second-year specialty program in September of the same year.
- ➔ Spring enrollees who opt to start their second-year program in September will be on track to graduate in May and participate in that graduation ceremony.
- ➔ All students entering a third- or fourth-year specialty program will begin in September, graduate in May, and participate in the May graduation ceremony.

January 2014 marked the beginning of spring enrollment, with 34 students enrolling and attending as members of the charter class. For more information contact Christy Wicks in the Recruiting Department at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2379.



# Where Are They Now?

1977

**David Beebe ('77)** and his wife, Barbara, have accepted a call to pastor New Hope Worship Center in Albion, Michigan. David was an instructor at RBTC from 1995 to 2005 and also served as National Director of Rhema Ministerial Association International.



1984



**Melody (Birt '83, '84) Lavin** and her husband, Mike, are directing Victorious Living Ministries International in Kenya, where they work alongside **Paul Birt ('77)**. VLMI operates a Bible school, elementary school, medical center, and orphans outreach, and partners with other missions organizations to train ministers and lay people. Melody also trains worship teams in North America and overseas. [vlmi.org](http://vlmi.org)

1988

**Mary Hajj ('87, '88)** is the singles director at three campuses of Faith Church in Connecticut for Pastor **Frank Santora ('01)**. She also plays either drums, keyboard, or guitar for worship services at the church. She is active in other helps ministry areas, including sound, adult Bible classes, choir, and podcast editing. [FaithChurchCT.com](http://FaithChurchCT.com)



1990



**Fred ('89, '90) and Judy ('90, '91) Lambert** are directors of Rhema Austria and this year are celebrating 20 years as missionaries. They also pastor Freie Christengemeinde church in Wels. They have planted several churches and have sent graduates into the mission fields of Germany, Romania, Australia,

India, and Ghana. Their son, Josh, and daughter-in law, Irene, are both Rhema Austria graduates and assist them in the ministry. Their daughter, Hannah, has just completed her first year at Rhema USA. [rhema-austria.org](http://rhema-austria.org)

**Viola Thompkins ('89, '90)** is the founder of *To God Be All Glory Ministries* and has served as a short-term missionary to 23 countries on four continents. She's made 43 trips to foreign countries including Jamaica, Russia, and Nigeria. At age 66 she returned to college and received a doctorate in religious education. She has taught Bible studies in jails, prisons, and convalescent homes, and she has trained missionaries for the foreign field.



1994



**Antoine and Krissi Wyss (both '93, '94)** are pastors at the northeast campus of The Harvest church in Columbia, South Carolina ([the-harvest.org](http://the-harvest.org)). They also travel internationally to minister in

Bible schools and churches. To date they have shared the Gospel in 18 countries on four continents. They have three daughters. [WyssMissions.com](http://WyssMissions.com)

1995

## Alumni Spotlight

**Brian Bost ('94, '95)**

is children's pastor at John 3:16 Mission in North Tulsa. He runs an after-school program at the mission Monday through Friday for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade. The program has about 40 kids enrolled. They receive help with homework plus Bible study, classes in karate and art, and children's church.



"At-risk kids from all over North Tulsa can come to this program," says Brian. "They come from the projects and other neighboring apartments. Very often these are kids who don't have much support or help at home, so these programs fill a huge need in their lives and introduce them to Jesus at an early age."

In the summer Brian also runs an eight-week literacy program. Certified teachers teach in the morning, and then youth group volunteers hold a kids church service every afternoon. Brian and his wife, Mandy, have one son, Aidan (age 11), and live in Broken Arrow.

[John316mission.org](http://John316mission.org)

**Josh Ott ('94, '95)** and his wife, Elin, live in Egan, Minnesota, where Josh works as a dispatcher for Jefferson Lines bus company. They attend Established Heart Community Church in St.



Paul under Pastors **Duane and Mary Hanson (both '94, '95)**. The Otts have four children: Mikayla, 12, Danielle, 10, Michael, 7, and Kevin, 5.

## 1997

**Jack and Audrey Hicks (both '96, '97)** are founders of CURE (Christian Unity Restored Eternally) Ministries International, which has taught over 650 pastors throughout the world on the Great Commission and The Divine Healer using the Internet. These pastors, in turn, are teaching hundreds of others. The Hicks plan to go to Malawi in July to open an office for CURE Ministries. [hicksjaud@comcast.net](mailto:hicksjaud@comcast.net)



**Karen Jensen (honorary '97)** was married to Bob Salisbury on March 11, 2014, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Karen has been an instructor at RBTC and staff minister in the Rhema Alumni Office since 2005. The Salisburys now live full-time in

Minnesota, where Karen continues to write books and travel as an itinerant minister. [KarenJensenSalisbury.org](http://KarenJensenSalisbury.org)

## 1998

**Michelle (Dietz '97, '98) Elam** accepted the position of associate pastor at Live One Truth church in Upper Arlington, Ohio, in November 2013. Her husband, James, is the youth pastor there. [LiveOneTruth.com](http://LiveOneTruth.com)



**Audrey (Boresi '97, '98) Mack** founded GoTell Ministries in 2001 with her husband, Fred. She travels seven months out of the year to some of the poorest and least-reached nations in the 10/40 window, teaching believers in Bible schools, churches, and

healing conferences. Audrey also ministers all over the French-speaking world and is launching a French TV program, *C'est la Vie* (This Is Life). [GoTellMinistry.org](http://GoTellMinistry.org)

## 2000

**Roma and Anita Fisher (both '99, '00)** pastor Faith City Church in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. They have a weekly television show and a Bible school, and their church regularly conducts citywide conferences and outreaches. They have raised two daughters: **Hannah ('11, '12)**, who is studying pre-law; and **Natasha, 17**, who is pursuing a music career. [FaithCityChurch.ca](http://FaithCityChurch.ca)



## 2001

**Andrea Fillmore ('00, '01)** has been serving in Rome, Georgia, with **Pastors Doug ('95, '96) and Debbie ('96) Crumbly** since 2003 as part of their church-planting leadership team. In April of this year she launched a new itinerant ministry, Awakening, to empower young adults to live out their destinies.



## 2004



**Michael Johnson ('98, '04)** and his wife, Cassie, announce the birth of their son, Ammon Wesley, born October 25, 2013, and weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Ammon was born in the Pacific Northwest, but the Johnsons have recently moved to Sheridan, Arkansas, to open their own business.

**Devin Kroner ('03, '04)** with his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Titus, pastors Life Christian Church in Howell, Michigan. In January Devin released his first book, a 21-day devotional, and his second book, *Playing to Win*, is currently in production. [LifeHowell.com](http://LifeHowell.com)



## 2005



**Brent Ancell ('04, '05)** and his wife, Adrienne, pioneered World Outreach Church in 2007 in Ankeny, Iowa, a suburb of Des Moines. The church recently moved into a new building located at 6900 NE 14th St. in Ankeny. The Ancells have three daughters: twins Mollie and Kate, 4, and Emilie, 1.

**Mica (Kilstrom '04, '05) Olinghouse** is owner and lead writer of Millennial Media, LLC, an editorial and multimedia service team made up of several gifted Rhema grads. They help churches and ministries communicate the message of faith through books, social media, Web design, graphics, video, and other means. Her husband, **Jeff**, is a travel consultant for Pro Travel in NYC and just finished his first year at RBTC. The Olinghouses live in Broken Arrow and attend Rhema Bible Church. [MillennialMediaLLC.com](http://MillennialMediaLLC.com)



## 2007



**John ('85, '86, '07) and Cindy ('85, '86, '08) McKinney** are now serving as missionaries at Rhema Bible Training Center in Bangkok, Thailand, helping Directors **Keith ('86, '01) and Sharon ('01) Higginbotham** and Dean **Gary Hausman ('92, '93)**. John just celebrated his 60th birthday in March, and Cindy made him an "American" cake to share with the staff. [RhemaThailand.org](http://RhemaThailand.org)

Send your updates and photos to us at [rmai@rhema.org](mailto:rmai@rhema.org)

## 2008

**Josh ('07, '08) and Hannah ('13) Adams** announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie, on January 28th, 2014, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces. The Adamses moved to Brazil in October 2013 to plant a church called United. Their first service was April 6, 2014. [UnitedRio.com](http://UnitedRio.com)



**David ('10, '11) and Joy ('12, '13) Brunson** live in Broken Arrow, where David is the owner and operator of In His Name Construction LLC. He ministers on the job and also travels to Honduras every year to preach and teach. Joy is a stay-at-home mom with their three kids: Jasai, 10, Jeuel, 5, and Jylan, 4. Both David and Joy serve in the ministry of helps at Rhema Bible Church, and their family is pictured here with David's mom and stepdad.

## 2009



**Eric and Erica Giesow (both '08, '09)** announce the birth of their son, Eli Cruz, born on February 23, 2014, and weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces. Both Eric and Erica work at Valley Family Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for pastor **Jeff ('87, '88) and Beth (Shepard '85, '86) Jones**. Eric is executive pastor

of spiritual development; Erica is EPIC Commission director. Together they oversee EPIC Commission, the church's college-age discipleship program. [ValleyFamilyChurch.org](http://ValleyFamilyChurch.org)

## 2012

**Trenton Herald ('10, '11, '12)** now lives in Midland, Texas, where he is youth pastor for the Young and Fearless youth group at Elevate Church. Trent also leads worship for the church's main service. [ElevateMidland.com](http://ElevateMidland.com); [YoungAndFearless.org](http://YoungAndFearless.org)



**Chris Stanfill ('11, '12)** married Ruthie Mason on October 26, 2013, at Keystone Lake in Oklahoma. Chris is the youth pastor at Mannford Assembly of God in Mannford, Oklahoma, and also works at the Apple Store in Tulsa's Woodland Hills Mall. Ruthie assists Chris with the youth, runs children's ministry at the church, and works at Impact Productions in Tulsa.

## 2010

**Jessie (Preston '09, '10) Howard** and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first baby, Jude, on October 29, 2013, weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces. The Howards live and work in Flint, Michigan. They both serve at First Church of Worship and Praise in Pontiac, Michigan, and were recently ordained for ministry. [FirstCWP.org](http://FirstCWP.org)



**Michael ('11, '12) and Courtney (McCormack '10, '11) Varichionne** welcomed their second son, Isaac, born on January 23, 2014, weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 21 inches long. Isaac joins older brother Manny. Michael has just finished school with a degree in surgical technology and Courtney is a stay-at-home mom. They moved to Alabama in May to be near family.



**Daron Kendrick ('09, '10)** and his wife, Catherine, live in western Kenya and run Imprezza Academy Busia, a school for orphans and needy children. Their ministry exists to build up the children spiritually and educationally. Catherine grew up in Kenya, and Daron met her in Tulsa in 2011. They were married June 29, 2013. [Operation-Imprezza.org](http://Operation-Imprezza.org)



**Isaiah ('11, '12) and Ryann (Isley '03, '04) Weaver** had their first baby, Stella Noelle, on December 27, 2012, weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces. The Weavers live in Tulsa, where Isaiah is a Language Arts and Reading Intervention teacher at McLain Middle School and Ryann is the administrator at Domata School of Ministry and Missions

Department coordinator at World Outreach Church. Both volunteer in the church music department.

## 2011

**Michael ('09, '10, '11) and Gabrielle (Hardy '09, '10) Adkins** welcomed their first baby girl, Londyn Grace, on December 23, 2013, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Michael serves as Operations Lead and Youth Minister at Detroit World Outreach Church, where they have 90 to 100 students attending each Sunday. The Adkinses live in Southfield, Michigan.



**Deonta Williams ('11, '12)** and his wife, Lenore, were married on August 31, 2013, and are currently living in Grand Blanc, Michigan. They are starting a ministry to reach their community in several ways, including food distribution, after-school activities, and mentoring. They've also sent humanitarian aid to Asia and Gospel tracts to students at the University of Cambodia who read and write English.



## 2013



**Justin Wagnon ('11, '12, '13)** and his wife, Misty, are now houseparents for hurting and neglected teenagers at Second Chance Youth Ranch in Paron, Arkansas. It is a ministry of Family Church

Bryant in Bryant, Arkansas. The Wagnons have three children: Savannah, 7, Levi, 6, and Benaiah, 1.

**2cyr.org; FamilyChurchBryant.org**

## 2014

**Ryan Wimpey ('11, '12, '13)** and **Rachel Barnes ('12, '13, '14)** were married on April 4, 2014, at Woodward Park in Tulsa. They currently live in Tulsa.



## HOMEGOINGS

'75.....	Cooper Beaty .....	May 5, 2014
'76.....	Dean Wall .....	November 17, 2013
'80.....	Louis Phillips .....	December 8, 2013
'81, '82.....	Roy Ensmenger .....	June 20, 2011
'83.....	Lyle Pearson .....	September 19, 2013
'87, '88.....	Paula Shilling .....	December 18, 2013
'80, '89.....	Bernie (Bernwall) Wilson ...	December 31, 2013
'88, '89.....	Cecil Jensen* .....	November 8, 2013
'90, '91.....	Lillian Mejia* .....	November 1, 2013
'90, '93.....	Chris Spicer .....	February 4, 2014
'91, '92.....	Wendell Rochester.....	April 11, 2014
'92, '93.....	Wally Colvin* .....	February 8, 2014
'87, '95.....	Scott Jaeger.....	October 13, 2013
'94, '95.....	Ismael Tirado .....	November 2013
'95, '96.....	Roger Estes .....	April 20, 2014
'96, '97.....	Adam Hawley .....	November 18, 2013
'96, '97.....	Larry Noble.....	November 20, 2013
'97, '98.....	William Babcock .....	February 20, 2014
'98, '99.....	Tom Dai* .....	February 20, 2014
'99, '00.....	Melva Mast .....	December 2, 2013
'06, '07, '08.....	Jim Stafford.....	December 14, 2013
'83, '07, '08.....	Michael West*.....	December 22, 2013

\*member or former member of Rhema Ministerial Association International (RMAI)

### ~ IN MEMORY OF ~

## Cooper Beaty

1917–2014



On Monday, May 5, 2014, Cooper Beaty went home to be with the Lord. He was 97 years old.

Cooper graduated from Rhema in 1975 as a member of the charter class. He served as an RBTC instructor from 1977 to 2007, when he retired at age 90. The classes he taught included *Old Testament Survey*, *Church History*, *History of the Bible*, and *Creative Teaching Principles*.

Cooper was born of Quaker parents on a farm in Kansas and was converted to Christ at age 18. He taught school for three years; then at age 22 he responded to the call to ministry. His first efforts consisted of jail meetings, street preaching, and tent meetings. He spent 29 year in pastoral ministry and traveled as an evangelist for seven years before attending Rhema.

Cooper was a gifted writer, serving as editor of a Quaker periodical and authoring several books. During his last pastorate he wrote a weekly newspaper column. In 1974 he received an honorary doctorate from San Antonio Friends College in recognition of more than 30 years of successful ministry. He is survived by three daughters: Annette Tucker, Janet Mullikin, and Janel Corby; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a brother, Sam Beaty.



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### 2014-2015 EVENTS

On the Rhema campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma  
For more information or to register for any of these events, visit [rhema.org/events](http://rhema.org/events) or call **1-866-312-0972**.



#### KINDLE THE FLAME® WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

September 25-27

[rhema.org/ktf](http://rhema.org/ktf)



#### FALL RHEMA COLLEGE WEEKEND

October 17-19

[rhema.org/rcw](http://rhema.org/rcw)



#### A CALL TO ARMS® MEN'S CONFERENCE

November 6-8

[rhema.org/cta](http://rhema.org/cta)



#### WINTER BIBLE SEMINAR & HOMECOMING

February 15-20, 2015

[rhema.org/wbs](http://rhema.org/wbs)

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### AUGUST 24-27

#### CORNERSTONE WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

3783 SULLIVAN ST. | **MADISON, AL** 35758

PASTORS MARK & RHONDA GARVER | (256) 461-7055  
SUN. 6:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

### SEPTEMBER 7-10

#### LIVING WORD CHURCH

5601 SOUTHWEST DRIVE | **JONESBORO, AR** 72404

PASTORS DENNY & DANNI BEAVERS | (870) 931-3248  
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

### OCTOBER 12-14

#### TREE OF LIFE CHURCH\*

5513 IH 35 SOUTH | **NEW BRAUNFELS, TX** 78132

PASTOR DON & JESSAMY DUNCAN | (830) 625-6375  
SUN. 7:00 P.M. | MON.-WED. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

\*Kenneth W. Hagin will also speak at the 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday services.

### OCTOBER 15-17

#### LIVING WORD CHURCH

124 CR 320 | **SEMINOLE, TX** 79360

PASTOR TOD & DAPHNE DELAY | (432) 758-3316  
WED. 7:00 p.m. | THURS.-FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

#### SPECIAL MEETING

### SEPTEMBER 14

#### LIVING WORD FAMILY CHURCH

1000 PARK AVE. | **ST. JOSEPH, IL** 61873

PASTOR LARRY & PAM MILLIS | (217) 469-7410  
SUN. 9:30 A.M.

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